

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 02210 071742Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /070 W

-----006392 071754Z /43

P 071615Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8552

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

DIA WASHDC/RCM-2/DCO3D-1

DA WASHDC//ACSI-DA

HQ USAF WASHDC//IN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJBA

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CG

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL GOZ VERSION OF EVENTS IN ZAIRE'S BANDUNDU REGION

REF: A) KINSHASA 0891; B) KINSHASA 0991; C) KINSHASA 1477

1. SUMMARY: THE GOZ HAS BROKEN ITS SELF-IMPOSED SILENCE ON THE DISORDERS IN BANDUNDU (REFS A, B, AND C) AND ON THE MORE RECENT COUP PLOT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES (REPORTED SEPTTEL).THE AC-COUNT OF THE UNREST IN BUNDUNDU GENERALLY IS CONSISTENT WITH EMBASSY REPORTING, BUT NATURALLY OMITTS ANY REFERENCE EITHER TO THE PREDATIONS OF ZAIRIAN TROOPS (REFTELS) OR TO THE GRIEVANCES OF THE LOCAL POPULATION AGAINST THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.
END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE EVENTS IN BANDUNDU, WHICH THIS MESSAGE RECOUNTS, THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNREST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 02210 071742Z

WERE REBELS LEFT OVER FROM THE SHABA CONFLICT OF LAST YEAR. THEY WERE TAKEN IN HAND BY A MUTETELA TRIBESMAN (THESE TRIBESMEN WERE FORMER PRIME MINISTER LUMUMBA'S ETHNIC BASE OF SUPPORT) NAMED KASONGO. HE FIRST LED THEM TO THE ENVIRONS OF OSHWE IN THE MAI-NDOMBE SUBREGION OF BANDUNDU REGION, AND THEN THROUGH THE FOREST INTO THE KWILU SUBREGION. ARRIVING THERE IN LATE DECEMBER-EARLY JANUARY, THE REBELS IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS

KIMBANGUISTS (THE ONLY GOZ APPROVED SYNCRETIC RELIGIOUS SECT) AND PROCEEDED TO KILL OR MISTREAT THOSE WHO REFUSED TO FOLLOW THEM. THEY ALSO SEIZED AS HOSTAGES THE CHIEF OF THE LOCALITY OF KANGA (IN THE ZONE OF IDIOFA), HIS SECRETARY, AND A BELGIAN PRIEST NAMED FATHER CLOSE FROM THE TENE MISSION IN GUNGU ZONE.

3. THE GOZ ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS THAT THE GENUINE KIMBANGUISTS OF IDIOFA ALERTED THE HEAD OF THEIR CHURCH IN KINSHASA, WHO IN TURN DEMANDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENE AGAINST THOSE COMPROMISING THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS CHURCH. SIMULTANEOUSLY, CATHOLIC BISHOP BILETSHI OF IDIOFA ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY TO RESCUE HIS PRIESTS. THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION, IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION, ALSO WEIGHED IN WITH THE REQUEST TO KINSHASA FOR ASSISTANCE IN CRUSHING THE REBELS.

4. REPORT SAYS THAT A COMMANDO UNIT WAS DISPATCHED TO IDIOFA. IT LIBERATED THE HOSTAGES AS WELL AS OTHER CITIZENS FORCED TO JOIN THE REBELS, AND DECIMATED THE LATTER. THE LOCAL POPULATION COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE 14 CAPTURED REBEL LEADERS WERE NOT SUMMARILY EXECUTED RATHER THAN BEING GIVEN A FAIR MILITARY TRIAL BEFORE DEATH SENTENCES WERE CARRIED OUT.

5. INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT THE ABOVE OFFICIAL ACCOUNT ARE:
-- AN ATTACK BY MOBUTU AND HIS PRESS SPOKESMAN ON UNIDENTIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 02210 071742Z

FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS OF ETHNIC GENOCIDE IN IDIOFA;
-- AN ASSERTION THAT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED REBELLIONS LIKE THOSE THAT RAVAGED ZAIRE AFTER INDEPENDENCE CANNOT CORRECTLY EVALUATE EVENTS IN IDIOFA;
-- A COMPLAINT THAT THOSE ABROAD WHO ACCUSE THE GOZ OF HAVING VIOLATED BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED THE GOZ IF IT HAD NOT ACTED WITH DISPATCH TO SAVE THE BELGIAN PRIEST FROM BEING KILLED;
-- AND THE COMPLAINT THAT NO WESTERN VOICE HAS BEEN RAISED IN THANKS FOR ZAIRE'S HUMANITARIAN GESTURE IN RESCUING THE BELGIAN PRIEST AND RUSHING HIM TO KINSHASA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE OFFICIAL GOZ VERSION OF EVENTS IN IDIOFA IS CONSISTENT UP TO A POINT WITH OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING (REFS A, B, AND C). NOTABLY AND PREDICTABLY OMITTED ARE ANY REFERENCES EITHER TO THE REPORTEDLY WIDESPREAD KILLING AND PILLAGING BY ZAIRIAN SOLDIERS, OR TO THE UNDERLYING CONDITIONS WHICH PROVIDED (AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE) FUEL FOR UNREST IN THE AREA.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA02210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780102-1304
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780399/aaaadfma.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1d032cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 891, 78 KINSHASA 991, 78 KINSHASA 1477
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3419960
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL GOZ VERSION OF EVENTS IN ZAIRE'S BANDUNDU REGION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1d032cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014